AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL: VOLUME 72 NUMBER 1 (1982)

CHEILANTHES LANOSA AND CYSTOPTERIS PROTRUSA IN FLORI-DA. -Recently, Dr. Evans reported (Amer. Fern J. 65:1-2. 1975) a specimen of Cheilanthes lanosa (Michx.) D. C. Eaton, presently in the FLAS herbarium, from Florida. This was the first report of this fern in the state. During a brief visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis in January, 1981, we located a second Florida specimen of C. lanosa. The MO specimen was collected almost one hundred years earlier than the FLAS specimen, but was correctly identified. The herbarium sheet consists of four fronds without rhizomes. The label reads "Cheilanthes lanosa, det. JMG, Jan. 29, 1919, F. Rugel, 1842-1849, Florida, Ex Herbario Musei Britannici." Although the locality in Florida is not given on the label, we think that this second record should not go unnoticed and that it further substantiates the existence of C. lanosa in Florida, at least in an earlier period. There should also be no doubt that this fern was collected in Florida, as Dr. Rugel is known to have collected plants in Florida during the 1840's (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 6:311-312. 1879). In addition to the above specimen at MO, we also found a sheet of Cystopteris protrusa (Weath.) Blasdell consisting of one frond without rhizome, labeled "Cystopteris fragilis, Chipley, Florida, Aug. 1896, E. Pleas, From the Sadie F. Price Herbarium, Bought 1904." Although the characteristic horizontal, creeping rhizome was absent, there was no difficulty in recognizing this species by its petiolulate basal pinnae and stramineous stipe. A search of pertinent Florida fern literature published by D. S. Correll (Amer. Fern J. 28:11-16, 46-54, 91-100, 1938), J. K. Small (Ferns of Florida, 1931), O. Lakela and R. W. Long (Ferns of Florida, 1976), and R. F. Blasdell (A Monograph of the Fern Genus Cystopteris, Mem. Torrey Bot. Club 21(4):1-102. 1963) did not indicate the presence of any Cystopteris in Florida. To the best of our knowledge, the present paper represents the first report of this genus attributed to Florida. The area about Chipley, Florida (Washington County) is characterized by limestone outcrops and springs. It is not unusual that C. protrusa could have been found amongst the more shaded, damp outcrops, although it usually does prefer more circumneutral situations, such as rich humus. Certainly, this area would provide a habitat suitable to C. protrusa. The site in Washington County, Florida represents a range extension of approximately 280 miles south from its closest known site in Walker County, Georgia, according to R. McVaugh and J. H. Pyron (Ferns of Georgia, 1951) and approximately 230 miles south of its closest known sites in Tuscaloosa and Jefferson Counties, Alabama (B. E. Dean, 1969, Ferns of Alabama) .-Aleta Jo Petrik-Ott and Franklyn D. Ott, Department of Biology, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN 38152.

